

TARZAN and the JEWELS OF OPAR

By EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

THE STORY THUS FAR

Lieutenant Werner, a Belgian in the Congo, joins Achmet Zek, an Arab, in a plan to kidnap for ransom Lady Greystoke, wife of Tarzan. The woman is captured, while Werner is following Tarzan to Opar, where he has been sent to negotiate with Jewels, a stoned-dreamer who loves him. Tarzan, however, is captured by the Abysilians and loses his identity, becoming again the man he had been years before. Werner robs him of the jewels and rejoins Zek. Zek, having no further use for him, resolves to kill him, but Tarzan escapes and is captured by a band of Abysilians.

Tarzan tricks Werner to recast his pretty stones, sees Lady Greystoke and resolves to kidnap her, not knowing that she is his wife. Tagat, an ape, captures the woman before Tarzan reaches her.

Mugambi, Tarzan's henchman, who escaped the general slaughter when Lady Greystoke was captured, is sent by Zek to the same band of Abysilians that caught Werner. He recognizes Werner and also recognizes the pouch Werner carries. Mugambi escapes from the Abyssalians. Werner is first alarmed at his departure, but recovers confidence when he finds that he still has the pouch. He does not examine the contents.

So far he has attacked the Abyssalians and Werner is at last cornered. He resolves to save his life by giving Zek the jewels.

CHAPTER XI.—(Continued)

WERPER had fired all but a single cartridge, when, during a lull in the fighting, he called aloud to his opponent.

"Achmet Zek," he cried, "Allan alone knows which one of us may leave his bones to rot where he lies upon this trail today if we keep up our foolish battle. You wish the contents of the pouch I wear about my waist, and I wish my life and my liberty even more than I do the jewels. Let us each, then, take that which he most desires and go our separate ways in peace. I will lay the pouch upon the carcass of my horse, where you may see it, and you, in turn, will lay your gun upon your horse, with butt toward me. Then I will go away, leaving the pouch to you, and you will let me go in safety. I want only my life and my freedom."

The Arab thought in silence for a moment. Then he spoke. His reply was influenced by the fact that he had expended his last shot.

"Go your way, then," he growled, "leaving the pouch in plain sight behind you. See, I lay my gun thus, with the butt toward you. Go!"

Werner removed the pouch from about his waist. Sorrowsfully and affectionately he let his fingers press the hard outlines of the contents. Ah, if he could but extract a little handful of the precious stones! But Achmet Zek was standing now, his eagle eyes commanding a plain view of the Belgian and his every act.

Regretfully Werner laid the pouch, its contents undisturbed, upon the body of the horse, rose, and backed tow'rd down the trail until a turn hid him from the view of the watchful Arab.

Even then Achmet Zek did not feel guilty as he was of some such sin; nor were his suspicions idle; for the Belgian, no sooner had he passed out of the range of Arab's vision, halted behind the shade of a tree and raising his rifle, spied the spot where the other's eye must appear when he came forward to seize the treasure.

Achmet Zek was no fool to himself to the blackened honor thief and a murderer. Taking his long gun with him, he left the trail, entering the rank and tangled vegetation which walled it, and crawling slowly forward on hands and knees he paralleled the trail; but never was his body exposed to the rifle of the hidden assassin.

Thus Achmet Zek advanced until he had come opposite to the dead horse of his enemy. A short distance along the trail Werner waiting in growing impatience and nervousness, wondering why the Arab did not come to claim his reward.

Precisely he saw the muzzle of a rifle appear suddenly and mysteriously a few inches above the pouch, and before he could realize the cunning trick that the Arab had played upon him in the sight of the weapon was secretly hooked into the rawhide thong which formed the carrying strap of the pouch, and the latter was drawn quickly from his view.

Nor for an instant had the raider exposed a square inch of his body, and Werner dared not fire his one remaining shot unless sure of a successful hit.

Chuckling to himself, Achmet Zek withdrew a few paces further into the jungle, for he was as positive that Werner was waiting nearby for a chance to pot him as though his eyes had penetrated the jungle to the figure of the Belgian.

Werner did not dare advance; his uprightness would not permit him to do it, and so he stood there, his rifle ready in his hands, his eyes watching a trail.

But there was another who had seen a pouch and recognized it, who did advance with Achmet Zek, hovering above him, as silent and as sure as death itself, and as the Arab, finding a little spot less overgrown with bushes than he had yet encountered, prepared to gloat his eyes upon the contents of the pouch, Tarzan paused directly above him.

Wrapping his thin lips with his tongue, Achmet Zek loosened the tie strings which closed the mouth of the pouch, and cupping one clawlike hand, poured forth a portion of the contents to his palm.

A single look he took at the stones in his hand. His eyes narrowed, voice broke from his lips, and he laid the small objects upon the ground disdainfully. Quickly he emptied the balance of the contents until he had scanned each separate stone, so he dumped them all upon the ground and stamped upon them until his fingers grew until the muscles of his fingers worked in fury, and his fingers

clenched until his nails dug into his palms.

Above, Tarzan watched in wonderment. He wanted to see what the Arab would do after the other had gone away, leaving the pouch behind him, and having satisfied his curiosity, he would then have pounced upon Achmet Zek and taken the pouch and his pretty pebbles away from him, but Tarzan escapes and is captured by a band of Abysilians.

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As the man disappeared from his view Tarzan dropped to the ground and commenced gathering up the spilled contents of the pouch, and the moment that he obtained his first view

of the empty pouch, and grasping his long gun by the barrel, crouched, sneaking stealthily through the jungle beside the trail along which Werner had gone.

They watched Mugambi make his little kill of a small rodent, and they followed him as he returned to his hut, their owner moving quietly

as the man disappeared from his view.

Two weeks later Joy went to New Hampshire for her autumn vacation with her grandmother. She expected to meet Red Spot there this year, because her grandmother had written to tell her that there was a party about half a mile away. The party was evidently made up of Indians.

They were a jolly crowd and she enjoyed herself immensely, but all was glad to see her. While there she saw Nanny Goat, James' son, one of her young hostesses, come into the room.

"You look fine, Joy," she said after surveying her guest, "but we want to meet. It's the catch of the season, dear, and as he doesn't care especially about any of us, we want you to see what we can do."

At dinner, therefore, Joy was introduced to King W., the aforesaid Prince Charming. Her heart beat throbbed with excitement, but she was not quite so sure of him as she had been.

He was tall and light, with sympathetic, dark-brown eyes, a wonderful smile and a engaging personality. She liked him very much and the boys looked at the young man when she acknowledged their introduction. Surely this was her ideal.

That he was wealthy she found out before she met him, however.

On the other hand, Joy herself was a bewitching little creature. She had quantities of wavy, elephant hair, violet eyes and a pale, transparent complexion. King W., who admired pretty girls exceedingly, immediately attached himself to her and rarely left her side during the evening, while the other guests nodded their heads and smiled knowingly.

For the next few days she was in the company of King W., a prince that she well knew was accompanied by King K., who proved to be wonderfully congenial.

It may be added here that he was always thus with every girl he knew, and in this way that endeared him to all the feminine sex.

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